

Mineral Industry Surveys

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LEAD IN MAY 2006

Domestic mine production of lead, based on the net quantity of lead recovered from concentrate, was 33,400 metric tons (t) in May, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. This represented a decrease of a little over 0.5% compared with production in April 2006 and nearly the same as that in May 2005. Mine production for the first 5 months of 2006 was about 7% greater than that of January through May of 2005. Secondary refinery production of lead was 98,200 t in May, nearly the same as that of April.

According to Platts Metals Week published quotations, the average North American producer price declined nominally from that of the previous month to 76.44 cents per pound. The London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price in May ranged from a low of \$1,051.50 per metric ton at the end of the month (May 31) to a high of \$1,316.00 per metric ton (May 11), and averaged \$1,166.18 per metric ton, about a 0.3% decrease compared with the April 2006 average price. These prices (North American producer and LME) were up by about 26% and 18%, respectively, compared with the May 2005 average prices. During May, global LME lead stocks increased by 12,575 t to 112,175 t at month's end. On May 8, LME lead stocks rose above 100,000 t for the first time since January 14, 2004.

Anhui Huaxin Lead Industry Group started construction on a secondary lead plant. The plant would utilize modern

environmental processes and was designed to save energy and water. When completed, the plant would be capable of recycling 200,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of lead (Antaike, 2006).

Metalico, Inc. signed an agreement with EnviroFocus Technologies to sell its secondary smelter in Tampa, FL. The smelter has the capacity to produce about 27,000 t/yr of refined lead from lead-acid batteries and lead scrap (Platts Metals Week, 2006; CRU International Ltd., 2006)

The National Defense Stockpile aggregated cash disposal (sale) of lead in May, under the Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Lead-005, was 1,800 t, with an approximate value of \$2.0 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2006).

References Cited

- Antaike, 2006, Anhui Huaxin starts construction of a secondary lead plant: Antaike, China Metal Market – Lead & Zinc, Tin Monthly, no. 115, June, p. 5.
- CRU International Ltd., 2006, CRU Monitor—Lead—Supply briefing—Recycling news: CRU International Ltd., June, p. 8.
- Defense National Stockpile Center, 2006, Stockpile announces lead BOA sales for May 2006: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, June 5, 1 p.
- Platts Metals Week, 2006, Metalico Q1 up 76%, sells smelter: Platts Metals Week, v. 77, no. 19, May 8, p. 13.

TABLE 1
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2005		2006		
	Year	January - May	April	May	January - May
Production:					
Mine (recoverable)	426,000	165,000	33,600 ^r	33,400	176,000
Primary refinery	143,000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,110,000 ^p	462,000 ^r	95,900 ^r	96,000	471,000
Estimated	11,200 ^p	4,670 ^r	969 ^r	970	4,760
Recovered from copper-base scrap ^c	15,000 ^p	6,250	1,250	1,250	6,250
Total secondary	1,140,000 ^p	473,000 ^r	98,200 ^r	98,200	482,000
Stocks, end of period:					
Secondary smelters and consumers	61,400 ^p	61,400 ^r	60,100 ^r	60,300	60,300
Imports for consumption:					
Ore and concentrate	29	6	--	NA	-- ²
Refined metal	298,000	116,000	37,300	NA	125,000 ²
Consumption:					
Reported	1,460,000 ^p	610,000 ^r	124,000	125,000	623,000
Undistributed ^c	45,300 ^p	18,900 ^r	3,840 ^r	3,860	19,300
Total	1,510,000 ^p	629,000 ^r	128,000	129,000	642,000
Exports:					
Ore and concentrate	390,000	73,600	2,220	NA	41,700 ²
Bullion	198	76	37	NA	105 ²
Wrought and unwrought lead	64,600	27,200	8,050	NA	26,500 ²
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	1,270	871	45	NA	1,010 ²
Exports (gross weight): Scrap	67,300	29,400	6,260	NA	27,200 ²
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)	61.03	60.75	76.46	76.44	74.92

^cEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes data for January - April only; May data were not available at time of publication.

TABLE 2
MONTHLY AVERAGE LEAD PRICES

	North American producer price cents/lb	LME		Sterling exchange rate dollars/£
		\$/metric ton	£/metric ton	
2005:				
May	60.77	987.71	541.77	1.823100
December	64.78	1,123.51	643.55	1.745805
Year	61.03	975.98	537.10	1.817133
2006:				
March	76.54	1,191.74	683.26	1.744187
April	76.46	1,169.88	661.68	1.768045
May	76.44	1,166.18	624.05	1.868714

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks April 30, 2006	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks May 31, 2006
Battery-lead	24,500 ^r	104,000	104,000	24,900
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other ²	2,520 ^r	7,860	7,720	2,670
Total	27,000 ^r	112,000	112,000	27,600
Percent change from preceding month	XX	4.0	3.3	2.9

^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes solder, common babbitt, antimonial lead, cable covering, type metals, and other lead-base scrap not elsewhere classified.

TABLE 4
LEAD, TIN, AND ANTIMONY RECOVERED FROM
LEAD-BASE SCRAP IN MAY 2006¹

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	73,200	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	22,400	(2)	(2)
Other ³	351	(2)	(2)
Total lead-base	96,000	138	311

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other."

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

³Includes cable lead, lead-base babbitt, solder, type metals, and other products.

TABLE 5
CONSUMPTION OF LEAD IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Use	2005 ^p		2006		
	January - December	January - May ^r	April	May	January - May
Metal products:					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	60,000	25,000	6,270 ^r	6,670	32,400
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	3,700	1,540	395 ^r	416	2,040
Cable covering, power and communication and cabling lead, building construction	6,840	2,850	706 ^r	868	3,650
Casting metals	17,900	7,470	1,630 ^r	1,630	8,130
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	32,700	13,600	2,450 ^r	2,450	12,600
Solder	7,130	2,970	658 ^r	671	3,470
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,280,000	532,000	109,000 ^r	109,000	544,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products ²	2,210	920	146 ^r	151	745
Total metal products	1,410,000	586,000	121,000 ^r	122,000	607,000
Other oxides and miscellaneous	56,400	23,500	3,180 ^r	3,140	15,800
Total reported	1,460,000	610,000	124,000	125,000	623,000
Undistributed ^c	45,300	18,900	3,840 ^r	3,860	19,300
Grand total	1,510,000	629,000	128,000	129,000	642,000

^cEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes lead consumed in foil, collapsible tubes, annealing, plating, galvanizing, and fishing weights.

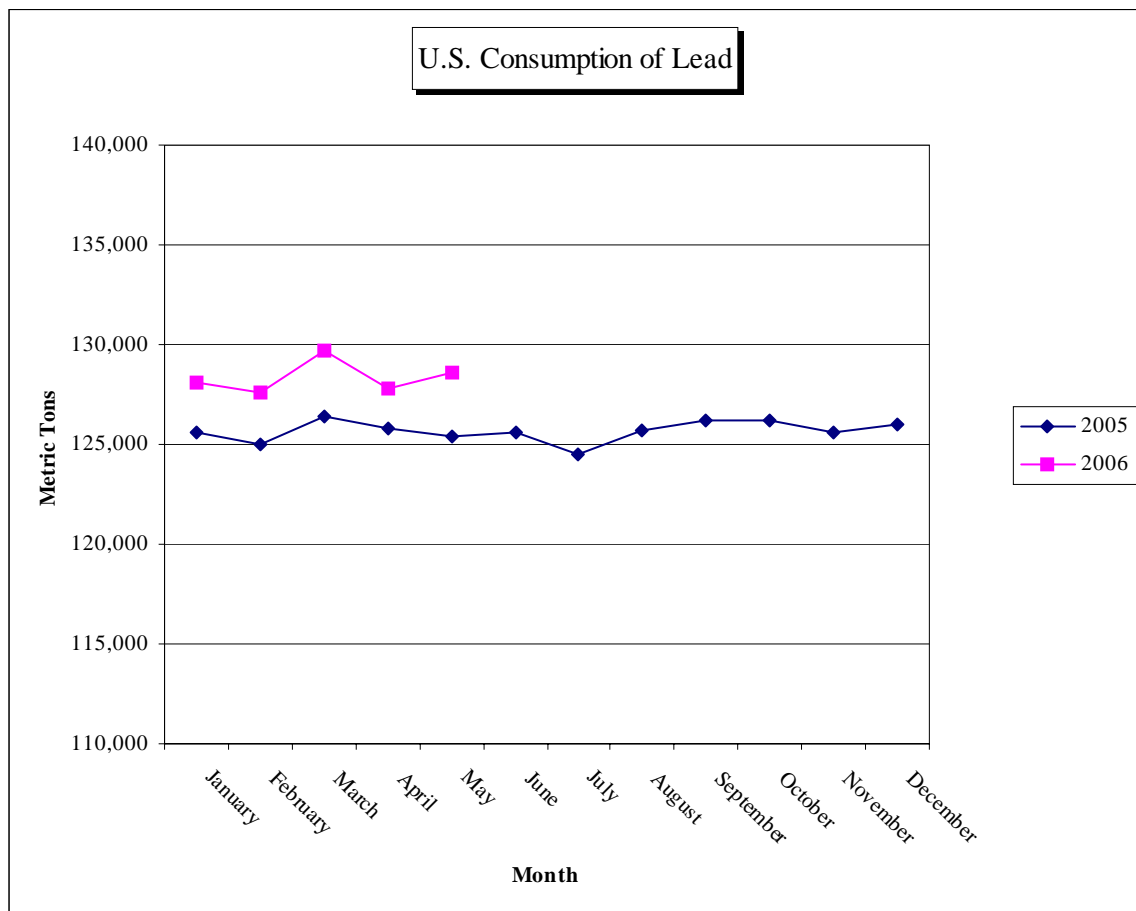


TABLE 6
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS, AND
CONSUMPTION OF LEAD¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks April 30, 2006	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks May 31, 2006
Soft lead	33,500 ^r	71,500	70,900	34,200
Antimonial lead	10,600 ^r	26,800	27,300	10,100
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W
Total	60,100 ^r	125,000	125,000	60,300

^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF LEAD, BY CLASS¹

(Metric tons)

	2005		2006		
	April	Year	March	April	January - April
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	9,720	390,000	6,570	2,220	41,700
Bullion	5	198	29	37	105
Materials excluding scrap	4,130	64,600	8,630	8,050	26,500
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	36	1,270	909	45	1,010
Total	13,900	456,000	16,100	10,300	69,300
Gross weight: Scrap	7,350	67,300	6,070	6,260	27,200

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS OF LEAD BY TYPE OF MATERIALS AND BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Country of origin	General imports					Imports for consumption				
	2005		2006			2005		2006		
	Year	January -	March	April	January -	Year	April	March	April	January -
		April								
Base bullion:										
Canada	18	--	--	--	--	18	--	--	--	--
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	10	6	--	--	--	10	6	--	--	--
Total	29	6	--	--	--	29	6	--	--	--
Pigs and bars:										
Australia	19,300	18,800	252	--	478	39,600	18,800	252	--	478
Canada	190,000	65,800	19,300	19,700	84,000	190,000	65,800	19,300	19,700	84,000
Mexico	15,200	1,420	883	907	3,710	15,200	1,420	883	907	3,710
Peru	23,900	4,480	3,980	1,430	10,800	23,900	4,480	3,980	1,430	10,800
Other	28,300	131 ^r	438	15,300	26,200	29,000	131 ^r	438	15,300	26,200
Total	277,000	90,600 ^r	24,800	37,300	125,000	298,000	90,600 ^r	24,800	37,300	125,000
Grand total	277,000	90,600 ^r	24,800	37,300	125,000	298,000	90,600 ^r	24,800	37,300	125,000

^rRevised. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.